

# **CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Edward A. Flynn, Chief of Police*

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### **MILWAUKEE POLICE ANNOUNCE CONTINUED CRIME DROP**

Total violent crime decreased nearly 16 percent in the first quarter of 2010 while the total of property crimes decreased 8 percent in the same time period, according to statistics released today by Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn.

The violent crime decrease was led by decreases of 10.5 percent in homicide, 33 percent in rape, 20 percent in robbery and 11 percent in aggravated assault. Property crime decreases of 7 percent were achieved for theft and 23.5 percent for stolen cars. Burglary bucked the trend, with an increase of 4.3 percent representing 49 additional such crimes compared to last year. The overall crime decrease was 9 percent.

As impressive as those accomplishments are, even more impressive is the cumulative crime decrease for the quarter compared to the first quarter of 2007. Total first quarter crime has declined 24 percent since then. The most dramatic decreases are in overall violent crime and in car theft. In three years, violent crime has decreased 40 percent in Milwaukee (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault). Stolen cars have decreased by an impressive 58 percent over that period of time.

"These decreases are strong proof that the Milwaukee Police Department's community-based, problem-oriented, data-driven strategies are having a sustained impact on the crime rate," Chief Flynn said. "The improvement in the level of safety in Milwaukee is directly attributable to the dedication of the men and women of this police department working closely with neighborhoods most afflicted by crime, disorder and fear."

The homicide rate continues at a level consistent with 25-year lows established in 2008. "We believe we are having an effect on the pattern of retaliatory violence and murders committed by strangers but we know that crimes of passion will continue to be unpredictable," Chief Flynn said. He pointed out that the homicide unit has achieved a 100 percent clearance rate in the first-quarter of 2010, an extraordinary achievement. He also noted that four homicide incidents accounted for 10 victims.

Although property crime was generally down the burglary increase is frustrating. Chief Flynn reports that significant department resources are being dedicated to this crime, given the negative effect it has on neighborhoods. Arrests of burglars and the number of burglaries cleared by arrest have both increased significantly. He praised Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm for his focus on residential burglaries. "The DA, his assistants, and the community prosecutors have proved to be invaluable resources in dealing with this stubborn problem," Chief Flynn said.

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"We are going to continue to assertively confront the problems of crime, disorder and fear by deploying our officers in the neighborhoods most afflicted and conducting high-quality investigations," Chief Flynn said. "Our officers know that community support is essential in order to achieve our goal of safe public spaces. That means we are mindful to treat the public with courtesy, professionalism and respect." He cited the fact that although investigatory stops of vehicles and persons have increased four-fold, overall complaints remain at their former levels despite the increase of police activity.

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